

### **REMARKS**

This is in response to the Office Action that was mailed on October 3, 2005. Claims 1 and 9 are amended to recite a solvent dissolution step, based upon such disclosure as that appearing in lines 9-16 on page 10 of the specification. Also, the weight percentages recited in original claims 8 and 16 are incorporated into claims 1, 9, 12, and 13. Claims 8 and 16 are accordingly cancelled, without prejudice. No new matter is introduced by this Amendment. Claims 1-7, 9-15, and 17-20 are pending in the application.

Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9-14 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 4,139,342 (Sheldrake et al.) or by *IEEE*, vol. 20, no. 2, pp. 203-212 (Dvornikov et al.). Claims 1-6, 9-14, and 17-20 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by US 6,115,344 (Gudesen et al.). Claims 1, 2, 5, 6, and 9-14 were rejected under 35 USC § 102(e) as being anticipated by US 6,413,655 B2 (Otani et al.) or by US 6,432,610 B1 (Rentzepis et al.) or by *Optics Communications*, vol. 212, Issues 1-3, page 45-50 (Tanaka et al.). Since claims 1-7, 9-15, and 17-20 in their present form incorporate the recitations of claims 8 and 16, which were not rejected as being anticipated by any of the above references, these grounds of rejection have been obviated.

Claims 7, 8, 15, and 16 were rejected under 35 USC § 103(a) as being unpatentable over each of Sheldrake et al., Dvornikov et al., Gudesen et al., Otani et al., Rentzepis et al., and Tanaka et al. The rejection is respectfully traversed. Claims 8 and 16 have been cancelled. The present invention is based upon Applicants' discovery that when PMMA is dissolved in a solvent, then it may be doped with a fluorescent substance such as rhodamine B. Independent claim 1, from which claim 7 depends, now expressly recite the step of "dissolving said fluorescent substance or substances and PMMA in a solvent and subsequently removing the solvent from the solution". Likewise, independent claim 9, from which claim 15 depends, recites the step of "dissolving in a solvent PMMA and a fluorescent substance" and also recites the step of "removing the solvent from the solution". None of the prior art references cited by the

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Examiner teaches or suggests these steps in the context of the technology of the present invention. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that the Examiner has failed to state a *prima facie* case of obviousness against any of claims 1-7, 9-15, and 17-20 in their present form.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to withdraw all rejections of record, and to pass this application to Issue.

If there are any questions concerning the present application, the Examiner is invited to contact Richard Gallagher, Registration No. 28,781, at (703) 205-8008.

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Respectfully submitted,

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